1.   In a system that includes a heterogeneous imaging device, a method for enabling the heterogeneous imaging device to operate as a homogeneous device, the method comprising:

initiating an imaging job that is compatible with an imaging driver for rendering within the system;

using a virtual job control interpreter at the heterogeneous imaging device to render at least a portion of the imaging job, wherein the virtual job control interpreter uses a job control device profile that is compatible with the imaging driver for mapping job control commands into one or more internal job control actions; and

rendering the at least a portion of the imaging job at the heterogeneous imaging device.

2.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the heterogeneous imaging device is preloaded with a default job control device profile that is compatible with the imaging driver.

3.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the job control device profile is downloaded to the heterogeneous imaging device.

4.   A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the job control device profile is based on another imaging device.

5.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the job control device profile is selected at run-time for compatibility with the heterogeneous imaging device.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the job control device profile is dynamically set to conform to another imaging device.

5   7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the imaging job is one of:

      (i)   a print job;

      (ii)   a scan job;

      (iii) a fax job; and

      (iv) a document management job.

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8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for using the virtual job control interpreter comprises:

      parsing job control commands from the imaging job; and

      establishing settings of the heterogeneous imaging device according to

15   requirements specified by the job control commands.

9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the step for using the virtual job control interpreter further comprises at least one of:

      parsing job control commands from the imaging job;

20   parsing page control commands from the imaging job; and

      parsing page rendering commands from the imaging job.

10.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for using the virtual job control interpreter comprises:

defining one or more capabilities of the heterogeneous imaging device;

defining capability settings associated with each of the one or more

5   capabilities;

mapping a set of job control statements to the capability settings; and

utilizing a common definition interface to specify the capability settings and the one or more capabilities.

10   11.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for using the virtual job control interpreter comprises:

extracting the job control device profile embedded in the imaging job; and

using a name of the job control device profile and a name of the heterogeneous imaging device to index and retrieve the job control device profile.

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12.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for initiating the imaging job is performed at a computer device that includes the imaging driver.

13.   A homogeneous imaging system comprising:

a computing device configured to initiate an imaging job, wherein the client computing device is coupled to a network;

the imaging job, wherein the imaging job is compatible with an imaging driver; and

a heterogeneous imaging device coupled to the network, wherein the heterogeneous imaging device includes a virtual job control interpreter to render at least a portion of the imaging job, and wherein the virtual job control interpreter uses a job control device profile that is compatible with the imaging driver for mapping job control commands into one or more internal job control actions to render the at least a portion of the imaging job at the heterogeneous imaging device.

14.   A homogeneous imaging system as recited in claim 13, wherein the heterogeneous imaging device is preloaded with a default job control device profile that is compatible with the imaging driver.

15.   A homogeneous imaging system as recited in claim 13, wherein the job control device profile is downloaded to the heterogeneous imaging device.

16.   A homogeneous imaging system as recited in claim 13, further comprising a homogeneous imaging device coupled to the network, wherein the homogeneous imaging device and the heterogeneous device are at least a part of an imaging cluster to selectively render imaging jobs.

17.   A homogeneous imaging system as recited in claim 16, wherein the job control device profile is based on the homogeneous imaging device.

18.   A homogeneous imaging system as recited in claim 13, wherein the imaging

5   job is one of:

(i)   a print job;

(ii)   a scan job;

(iii)   a fax job; and

(iv)   a document management job.

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19.   A homogeneous imaging system as recited in claim 13, wherein the computing device includes the imaging driver.

20.   A computer program product for implementing within a computer system a
method for enabling the heterogeneous imaging device to operate as a homogeneous device
within the cluster, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium for providing computer program code means

5   utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is
comprised of executable code for implementing the steps for:

initiating an imaging job that is compatible with an imaging driver for
rendering within the system;

utilizing a virtual job control interpreter at a heterogeneous imaging

10   device of the system to render at least a portion of the imaging job, wherein
the virtual job control interpreter uses a job control device profile that is
compatible with the imaging driver for mapping job control commands into
one or more internal job control actions; and

rendering the at least a portion of the imaging job at the heterogeneous

15   imaging device.

21.   A computer program product as recited in claim 20, wherein the computer
program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing a step for
downloading the job control device profile to the heterogeneous imaging device.

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22.   A computer program product as recited in claim 21, wherein the job control
device profile is based another imaging device.

23. A computer program product as recited in claim 20, wherein the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing a step for receiving the job control device profile as a selection at run-time for compatibility with the heterogeneous imaging device.

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24. A computer program product as recited in claim 20, wherein the step for utilizing the virtual job control interpreter comprises:

parsing job control commands from the imaging job; and

establishing settings of the heterogeneous imaging device according to
10 requirements specified by the job control commands.

25. A computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the step for utilizing the virtual job control interpreter further comprises at least one of:

parsing job control commands from the imaging job;

15 parsing page control commands from the imaging job; and

parsing page rendering commands from the imaging job.

26. A computer program product as recited in claim 20, wherein the step for utilizing the virtual job control interpreter comprises:

defining one or more capabilities of the heterogeneous imaging device;

defining capability settings associated with each of the one or more

5   capabilities;

mapping a set of job control statements to the capability settings; and

utilizing a common definition interface to specify the capability settings and the one or more capabilities.

10   27. A computer program product as recited in claim 20, wherein the step for utilizing the virtual job control interpreter comprises:

extracting the job control device profile embedded in the imaging job; and

using a name of the job control device profile and a name of the heterogeneous imaging device to index and retrieve the job control device profile.

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